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ASSOCIATED PRESS
30 October 1984

SPY BOOK - AUTHOR CLAIMS SECURITY CHIEF WAS SPY FOR 27 YEARS
BY GRAHAM HERTHCOTE

LONDON (AP) - A BRITISH JOURNALIST PUBLISHED A BOOK TODAY THAT ALLEGES THE LATE SIR ROGER HOLLIS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF BRITAIN'S MI5 INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCY FROM 1956 TO 1965, WAS PROBABLY A SOVIET AGENT THROUGH ALL HIS 27 YEARS IN BRITISH INTELLIGENCE

AUTHOR CHAPMAN PINCHER SUGGESTS THAT HOLLIS, WHO DIED IN 1973, WAS THE "FIFTH MAN" IN THE RING OF BRITISH SPIES THAT INCLUDED GUY BURGESS, DONALD MACLEAN, HAROLD "KIM" PHILBY AND ANTHONY BLUNT.

THE AUTHOR SAYS IT WAS PROBABLY HOLLIS WHO TIPPED OFF PHILBY THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO BE INVESTIGATED, PROMPTING HIM TO FLEE IN 1963. PHILBY, A KGB COLONEL LIVING IN MOSCOW, IS NOW THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE SPY RING.

PINCHER'S BOOK, "TOO SECRET TOO LONG," FOLLOWED UP ALLEGATIONS ABOUT HOLLIS WHICH PINCHER FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1981. PINCHER, 70 IS A RETIRED REPORTER FOR THE DAILY EXPRESS.

PINCHER'S 1981 BOOK, "THEIR TRADE IS TREACHERY," WAS BASED, HE SAID, ON INFORMATION FROM PEOPLE WITHIN THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WHO KNEW HOLLIS AND WERE SUSPICIOUS OF HIM.

ITS PUBLICATION LED PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER TO TELL THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN 1981 THAT HOLLIS WAS INVESTIGATED AFTER HIS RETIREMENT AND NOTHING WAS PROVED AGAINST HIM. HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SHE HAD ASKED THE SECURITY COMMISSION TO REVIEW SECURITY PROCEDURES AND CONSIDER IF ANY CHANGES WERE NEEDED.

ASKED ABOUT THE NEW BOOK, MRS. THATCHER'S OFFICE REFERRED REPORTERS TO HER 1981 STATEMENT AND SAID THERE WAS NO FURTHER COMMENT.

PINCHER SAID HIS FIRST BOOK RESULTED IN A STEADY FLOW OF FURTHER INFORMATION ENABLING HIM TO PROBE HOLLIS'S CAREER AND COMMUNIST ASSOCIATIONS MORE DEEPLY.

ALTHOUGH PINCHER'S EVIDENCE IS CIRCUMSTANTIAL, HE SAYS: "IN THE ABSENCE OF A CONFESSION ... AND IN THE LIGHT OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED HERE, THE PROBABILITY THAT HE (HOLLIS) WAS A SOVIET AGENT HAS VERY SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED."

"THE FACT THAT HOLLIS WAS INVOLVED IN ALMOST ALL THE MAJOR ESPIONAGE DISASTERS OVER 27 YEARS UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE GROWING BELIEF IN HIS GUILT AMONG PAST AND PRESENT MI5 STAFF," PINCHER SAYS.

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